(c) what action has been taken to ease the water crisis in the city; and

(d) whether the Delhi Administration are considering the possibility of bringing Chambal Waters to Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) to (c) As against the assessed requirement of water supply of 472 mgd., the existing water supply in Delhi is 409 mgd. There is thus no acute water crisis in Delhi at present. Government is, however, aware that there is a likelihood of scarcity of water in the city during the coming summer months. While, owing to the prevailing drought conditions, it may not be possible to fully overcome the scarcity, government is maintaining a continuous liaison with the State Govts. of UP and Haryana with a view to taking such steps as may be practicable for maintaining the supply of water to the city as close to the present level as possible.

(d) No, Sir.

Assistance to Punjab for Integrated Cooperative Development

*76. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount and form of the assistance provided to Punjab during the last year under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the Integrated Cooperative Development; and

(b) the number of primary agricultural Credit Societies benefited as a result thereof?

TTE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) No proposal has been received from Punjab Government for assistance under the scheme. Hence, no funds were provided to Punjab during the last year.

(b) Does not arise.

Memorandum for extension of immigration period of the people of Minicoy Island

*77. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people of Minicoy Island (Lakshdweep) had recently submitted a memorandum for extension of immigration period;

(b) whether Government have considered the above mentioned request of the people of the Island, and

(c) if so, what are details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The difficulty being faced by seamen in Minicoy Island (Lakshdweep) in obtaining emigration clerance from Protector of Emigrants (POE) Cochin in taking up employment in shipping lines was brought to the notice of Government in December 1985. The Deputy Collector, Minicoy was authorised to exercise the powers of Protector of Emigrants under Section 29 of the Emigration Act, 1983 with effect from 6 February 1986. Another difficulty pertained to their passports not having any mention of their profession as 'Seamen'. This was also resolved by instructing the Deputy Collector, Minicoy Island to grant emigration clearance on the basis of proof to his satisfaction that passport holders were 'Seamen'.

In December 1987 the residents have expressed that the period of suspension should not be one year but co-terminus with the voyage on merchant shipping vessels. It has since been decided to grant suspension of emigration clearance being co-terminus with periods of their employment on voyages.

Decline in the Mining of Gold

*78. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a fall in the production of